

The FY23 NDAA also includes historic reforms to the military justice system and extends an innovative tool to address the backlog in infrastructure needs at DOD laboratories that is used by multiple Maryland military installations. It includes provisions I authored in the State Department Authorization Act requiring the Department to submit recommendations to Congress to streamline the security clearance process and mandating that passport applicants be given the option to have supporting documents returned to them by certified mail. This legislation also includes the Water Resources Development Act, which advances several key Maryland priorities, such as resources to ensure our shipping channels and other waterways remain clear and accessible for navigation, support for a variety of local water infrastructure projects, and funding authorization for Chesapeake Bay watershed environmental restoration. Lastly, this bill includes funding and language that is critical to supporting Maryland's military installations, including \$175 million in authorized military construction. The bill also includes report language ensuring the Army's continued support for the demolition of contaminated facilities at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

While I am pleased with many of the provisions included in this bill and voted for its passage, I do have significant reservations.

I believe it is a mistake to continue funding for the research and development, production, or deployment of the nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile—SLCM-N—and its associated nuclear warhead. The United States already possesses an array of nonstrategic nuclear capabilities that fulfill our theater nuclear deterrence missions and reassure our allies of our extended deterrence commitments. In its 2019 cost estimate of U.S. nuclear weapons programs, the CBO projected that the SLCM-N would cost \$9 billion through 2028. This projection does not account for production costs after 2028, nor does it factor in costs associated with integrating the missile on ships, nuclear weapons training for personnel, and storage and security for nuclear warheads on naval bases. Not only is the program a waste of money, it will also dangerously raise the risk of nuclear miscalculation and escalation.

I regret that the bill does not include the Upholding Human Rights Abroad Act, which I introduced with Representative JACOBS to close a loophole that allows some U.S. security assistance to foreign forces without being subject to Leahy Law restrictions that bar U.S. military assistance to units credibly believed to have engaged in gross violations of human rights. This is a simple, straightforward matter of the United States living up to our most basic commitments as a member of the international community.

I also regret that the bill does not include the District of Columbia Na-

tional Guard Home Rule Act, which would give the D.C. Mayor the same control over the D.C. National Guard that the Governors of the States and Territories have over their National Guards. The attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, and the events at Lafayette Square on June 1, 2020, are prime examples of why the D.C. Mayor should control the D.C. National Guard. Denying this authority to the D.C. Mayor adds needless layers of bureaucracy between the emergency of a situation requiring the deployment of the Guard and its actual deployment. Moreover, current law creates a dangerous loophole by which a President may evade the Posse Comitatus Act and use the military for civilian law enforcement. I will continue to work with Senator CARPER and Representative NORTON to pass this legislation in the next Congress.

Finally, I believe that this bill fails to reckon seriously with the long-term budget challenges facing our country. We simply cannot afford to continue this level of investment in defense at the expense of other critical national priorities. I oppose the decision to invest an additional \$45 billion over the President's budget request for defense while we continue to underinvest in diplomacy, development, and a wide range of critical domestic priorities.

While I am opposed to some of the provisions in this bill and disappointed by the omission of others, I believe that, on balance, the NDAA will strengthen our national security and advance other important national priorities. For that reason, I voted in support of final passage.

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise on behalf of myself and my colleague Senator VAN HOLLEN to congratulate the Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, on the occasion of its 175th anniversary. The Baltimore District has a long and storied history from the early 1800s and the construction of Fort McHenry, protecting Baltimore against British attacks in the War of 1812. When the threat of coastal attack diminished in the 1820s, the Baltimore District turned its attention to work that signified the start of its civil works mission, developing roadways, railways, canals, and more. Today, the Baltimore District's mission is to deliver vital engineering solutions in collaboration with its partners to strengthen the Nation, energize the economy, and reduce disaster risks. With approximately 1,200 employees, the District's work spans Maryland; northern Virginia; Washington, DC; West Virginia; Pennsylvania; Delaware; lower central New York; overseas locations; and across the Susquehanna, Potomac and Chesapeake Bay watersheds.

The Baltimore District has an extensive flood risk management program,

inspecting nearly 150 miles of levee systems and operating 16 dams, contributing to the prevention of more than \$16 billion in flood damages to date. The District maintains 290 miles of Federal channels, including dredging for Baltimore Harbor, from which material is used beneficially in projects such as the expansion of Poplar Island in the Chesapeake Bay and the construction of the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration project. The District carries out important restoration work for native oyster populations in the Bay. The Baltimore District is the only district to operate a public utility—the Washington Aqueduct—that produces an average of 135 million gallons of drinking water per day at two treatment plants for approximately 1 million people living, working, or visiting the National Capital Region. The District also cleans up Formerly Used Defense Sites, decommissions and deactivates former nuclear power plants, and performs clean-up of low-level radioactive waste from the Nation's early atomic weapons program. The Baltimore District executes a robust military construction program and provides real estate services. These civil and military missions and diverse engineering services support communities and our military while protecting our national security. With today's ever-evolving and complex challenges, the urgency of climate change, and the connections between ecosystem health, environmental quality, and economic growth, the work of the Baltimore District is more vital than ever.

Senator VAN HOLLEN and I congratulate the Baltimore District on its 175th anniversary; we are proud of its headquarters' presence in Baltimore, and we look forward to its ongoing and future collaborations in Maryland and the wider region it serves.

RECOGNIZING HELP COMMITTEE STAFF

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask that the following names be placed in the RECORD in recognition of the outstanding service of my staff on the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions over the past 8 years. I thank them all for their service.

Lori Achman, Wade Ackerman, Anali Alegria, Vivianne Anguiano, Kalah Auchincloss, Katlin McKelvie-Backfield, Mary Barry, Nick Bath, Lauren Battle, Amanda Beaumont, Katie Berger, Jane Bigham, Katherine Blizinsky, Sarah Bolton, Kathleen Borschow, Remy Brim, Aissa Canchola, Greg Carter, Scott Cheney, Molly Click, Leslie Clithero, Megan Colon, Manuel Contreras, Jake Cornett, Jeff Crooks, Sarah Cupp, Elizabeth Darnall, John D'Elia, Garrett Devenney, Abigail Durak, Okey Enyia, Ariel Evans, Amanda Ferguson, Chris Fisk, Ian Foss, Andi Lipstein Fristedt, Christy Gaines, Jose Garcia, Sabah Ghulamali, Colin Goldfinch, Sabrina Gonzalez, Melissa Greenberg, Laura Gyamfi, Tiffany Haas, Helen Hare, Nichole Holm, Leanne Hotek, Megan Howard, Michael Huggins, Kendra Isaacson,

Kelli Jackson, Travis Johnston, Robert Jones, Samata Katta, Yeongsik Kim, Allie Kimmel, Natalie Kirilichin, Kimberly Knackstedt, Michael Kreps, Theresa Lau, Abby Laver, Elizabeth Letter, Michael Linden, Amanda Lowe, Mairiad Lynn, Kara Marchione, Bryce McKibben, Nikki McKinney, Nick McLane, Leticia Medero, Sarah Monteith, Elisa Morales, Meghan Mott, Sarah Mueller, Megan Mullett, Ryan Myers, Hannah Oakley, Osaremen Okolo, Emily O'Neill, Krista O'Neill, Josh Oppenheimer, Amar Pandya, Madeline Pannell, Casey Peeks, Amanda Perez, Melanie Rainer, John Righter, Mary Robbins, Sarah Rosenberg, Carly Rush, Madeleine Russak, Lauren Ruvo, Laurel Sakai, Jeff Sanchez, Michelle Sanchez, Sherie Lou Santos, Susannah Savage, Evan Schatz, Emily Schlicting, Leila Schochet, Shruti Shah, Joseph Shantz, Kristopher Sharp, Bart Sheard, Amanda Shelton, Amy Smith, Lafe Solomon, Aravind Sreenath, Dylan Stafford, Beth Stein, Aurora Steinle, Jennifer Stiddard, Kevin Stockert, Lindsey Tepe, Paul Thomas, Julie Tierney, Yelena Tsilker, Michael Varrone, Jessica Vivar, Liz Wagner, David Weisshaar, Valerie Williams, Esther Yoon, Andrew Zacher, Sara Zaheer

RECOGNIZING BUDGET COMMITTEE STAFF

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, at the end of this Congress, I will leave my role as chair of the Senate Budget Committee, where I have had the privilege of leading the Democratic side since 2015.

In January, I look forward to chairing the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, which has been led so ably by our colleague, the senior Senator from Washington, PATTY MURRAY, who is going to chair the Appropriations Committee. At the HELP committee, I look forward to focusing on universal healthcare, prescription drug prices, and workers' rights, among other priorities for the people of Vermont and America.

As I leave the helm of the Budget Committee, I want to express my thanks to the excellent Budget Committee staff, led so well by my longtime staff director Warren Gunnels and his deputy staff director Mike Jones.

Not many people realize it, but the Budget Committee staff played an important role in getting this Congress' two major budget laws, the American Rescue Plan Act and the Inflation Reduction Act, enacted into law. Budget Committee staff worked tirelessly with the staff of authorizing committees to ensure that their work would comply with the arcane and often-changing Senate rules.

I believe that history will show that the American Rescue Plan Act averted what would have been a prolonged, painful recession in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Budget Committee staff deserve part of the credit for that achievement.

The Budget Committee staff and I would very much have preferred that Congress had enacted all of President Biden's more transformational Build Back Better Plan. And Budget Committee staff worked long and hard to

make that so. But that we were not able to bring that entire package across the finish line in no way diminishes the recognition that the Budget Committee staff deserve for their efforts to make it happen.

I want to commend the Democratic staff who served the Budget Committee this Congress: Joey Alpert, Olga Bakun, Nicolas Ballon, Merissa Barrera, Alex Beaton, Sion Bell, Michaela Brown, Montana Cruz, Bill Dauster, Robert Etter, Tyler Evilsizer, Liam Fagan, Danielle Gardner, Billy Gendell, Zachary Green, Nikhil Goyal, Warren Gunnels, Ethan Hinch, Hufsa Husain, Alex Jacquez, Mike Jones, Melissa Kaplan-Pistiner, Mike Lawliss, April Lobo, Katrina Menard, Chris Neubert, Jimmy O'Donnell, Liz Pancotti, Richard Phillips, Ethan Rosenkranz, Hannah Sachs, Joshua Smith, David Snower, Camila Thorndike, Roberto Velez, and Melinda Warner. I believe that there is no finer committee staff in Congress.

I also want to thank our nonpartisan administrative staff, who have so ably served both Democratic and Republican Senators on the Budget Committee this Congress: Ben Mason, Malory Nersesian, Maeve Poulson, Alex Scioscia, Katie Smith, Carlile Soldo, and George Woodall.

In the congress to come, our Colleague SHELDON WHITEHOUSE will chair the Budget Committee. I wish him every success as he takes on that important job. Some of the Budget Committee staff will stay to work with him, and some will come to work with me at the HELP Committee, where they will join able staff that Senator MURRAY has assembled there.

I thank all these staff for the important work that they have done in this Congress and for the important work that they will do in the Congress to come.

REMEMBERING JUDY REARDON

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to Judy Reardon and recognize a long life devoted to serving the Granite State.

Everyone involved in public service in New Hampshire knows the name Judy Reardon. When Presidential candidates or journalists on the national level wanted an expert perspective in the Granite State, they reached out to Judy. When prospective candidates for statewide office needed advice from someone who ran—and won—several campaigns, they turned to Judy. When candidates were locked in a tough election fight and needed counsel to get them through Election Day, they called Judy. When government officials needed guidance on how best to use the tools of government to serve their constituents, they sought Judy. When local advocates needed advice on how best to champion their issues, they looked to Judy. And Judy always answered with suggestions and encouragement that were forward-thinking,

incredibly astute, uncommonly direct, unfailingly honest, and oftentimes very funny.

I am one of the many people who counted on Judy's sage advice, and we enjoyed a fiercely loyal friendship. Few people have had an impact on my life—personally and professionally—as much as Judy Reardon. From the New Hampshire State Senate to the Governor's office and the U.S. Senate, Judy filled numerous roles on my team: counsel, legislative director, and senior adviser. But her different staff titles over the years can never truly capture her importance to me or the significance of her work. She was my confidante and always the smartest person in the room. Judy was by my side when we expanded kindergarten for New Hampshire children. She helped me protect women's reproductive rights in New Hampshire. She was with me when we fervently defended the Affordable Care Act for years in the U.S. Senate. She was with me through every tough reelection. Judy devoted her life to public service—specifically, to bettering the lives of Granite Staters.

Sadly, Judy passed away last week after a long period of illness. Over the past few days, her many friends and former colleagues have released statements expressing the magnitude of her loss. It has been a tough week as we grieve a giant in public service. Yet our tears quickly turn to laughter and smiles as we recall fun memories with Judy and remember her fire, her unique sense of humor, her relentless spirit, and her commitment to her craft. I've heard so many stories about her mentorship of members of my staff and young activists who wanted to learn from her, work beside her and match—as best they could—her passion for making a difference. To these people, Judy developed a reputation for being—in their words—"scary" and "intimidating." When they presented their work or an idea to Judy, they knew it would be scrutinized by a brilliant mind who would share her thoughts in a candid way. Still everyone knew that her words were meant to challenge them to reach their full potential, to strengthen their arguments, and to refine their points-of-view. Everyone felt better about a path forward after talking with Judy.

I have known Judy since 1986, and it is difficult to imagine a future without her. I will miss her counsel before big decisions and consequential votes. I will miss her voice in meetings. I will miss her loyalty to me and the shared causes to which we devoted so much time and attention. She accomplished so much in public service, yet her story will continue to be written by the countless young staffers and activists she inspired over the years to follow her example. On behalf of the people of the Granite State, I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in recognizing Judy Reardon and keeping her family—her beloved sister Patricia